

Weekly Column for April 14th, 2006

Sorry for the one-day delay on the column, things are a bit busy around City Hall.

I wanted to take a minute and wish everyone a great Holiday weekend. Whether you are a Christian or Jewish, this time of year is extremely holy to many people, and I want to send my best wishes to all.

Last week we had a wonderful announcement in the City involving the first-ever Striped Bass fishing tournament for the Hudson River. We made the announcement at the Ale House in North Central, which will be officiating the contest on May 13th.

The details are quite simple. Fishing is allowed from the shore or from a boat, on May 13th from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The entry fee for the tournament is \$35, with the winner taking home the prize of \$1,000.

While I initially thought the idea would take off and be a tremendous success, I was stunned over the course of the past week at the amazing response the tournament has received. People up and down the Hudson River have been calling asking about the details, each of them excited to come up to Troy and fish next month.

This is important for several reasons. The first is that it will help us expand the use of the Hudson River, which I am constantly trying to make a reality. This contest is just one way to do that. Each spring the amount of people fishing for striped bass in the Hudson is remarkable. Adding a bit of competition can only improve that.

The second aspect of the tournament that will pay great dividends is that we will have new visitors to Troy. Every time we can get someone new into Troy, and show them what we have to offer, I consider that a major success.

Along those lines, last week we were the feature story in the Friday Travel Section of the New York Times. The story was a great piece of public relations for the City, and its something I was thrilled to see.

The fishing tournament will likely produce the same effect. Bringing new people into an old City. It's a great formula, and one we believe will work.

If you would like more information on the tournament, please visit the home page of this website, or call the Ale House at 272-9740.

Thanks and have a great weekend.